

Lewis Kamb

From: Register, Sabrina <Sabrina.Register@seattle.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 11:56 AM
To: Lewis Kamb
Cc: Lemke, Will
Subject: RE: Responses to my follow-up questions

Hi Lewis,

Below are responses from SPU and Nav Team (question 5).

Thanks,
Sabrina

- Who is the contractor hired by the city to conduct the remediation and at what cost?

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle Dept. of Transportation (SDOT) hired several contractors with specific expertise to assist with the clean-up and remediation.

- Geosyntec was hired to assist with technical aspects of the clean-up, including preparation of sampling plans, site sampling, data analysis and assisting with report preparation for our regulators, EPA and WA Dept. of Ecology.
- Clean Harbors, ProVac and Marine Vacuum all provided support during the remediation including excavation, CCTV, and transportation of waste.

The City does not have a final cost yet as clean-up is in its final stages and all invoices have not been submitted.

- What levels of the PCB contamination were found (parts per billion), and to what levels (parts per billion) must the site be remediated?

After an SPU inspector discovered the presence of PCBs, SPU immediately took soil samples from the City's shoulder and solids from the drainage system for lab analysis. Initial soil sample scraped from the surface of the road shoulder contained 40,300 mg/kg (ppm) total PCBs. During subsequent sampling to characterize the severity and extent of the contamination in the right-of-way, the highest concentration measured in soil was 14 mg/kg total PCBs. Soil characterization samples were collected over 0 to 6-inch depths compared to the initial surface scrape.

Solids material collected from the adjacent drainage system contained <1 to 6,970 mg/kg total PCBs

Soil cleanup level under the Washington State Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is 0.13 mg/kg total PCBs.

- When is remediation expected to be completed?

Cleanup, including excavation and disposal of contaminated soil and cleaning of the adjacent drainage system, was completed in early September. All of the contaminated soil and storm drain solids have been shipped off-site for disposal, but a small amount of material in two storage tanks used to manage water generated during cleanup is awaiting disposal, pending a review of the disposal plans by EPA. Additionally, the area of right-of-way where the contamination was discovered has been paved as an additional precaution to ensure public safety.

- How many city workers were exposed to the potential PCB exposure and has the city notified them about this (and if so, how was that done)?

Approximately 60 City employees who visited this area in recent months to provide public services were notified of the PCB discovery. The employees' supervisors and/or leadership met with them to talk about the contamination, answer questions and provide resources. Additionally, 6 vendors that contract with the City were notified of the contamination.

- Did the city notify any of the homeless people who had been living on the site about potential PCB exposure?

The Navigation Team compiled a list of individuals believed to have been living unsheltered on that site and worked to notify these individuals during the course of outreach activities, which is ongoing.

Have any of the potentially exposed workers filed a workman's compensation claim and or any other claim, and if so, have those been approved, challenged, settled by the city (and for what amounts)?

These are questions for City Human Resources and more time is needed to gather information, as it involves several City departments.

- My understanding is that the City speculated that the cause of contamination was one of the homeless residents of the site disassembling electrical equipment. What, if any, corroboration did the city find to support this?

SPU could not determine the exact source of the PCB contamination.

- Who owns the site where the clean-up is taking place?

The area where the presence of PCBs was discovered is owned by the City of Seattle.



Sabrina Register
Public Information Officer
City of Seattle, [Seattle Public Utilities](#)
O: 206-6847688 | M: 206-4468267 | sabrina.register@seattle.gov
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

From: Lemke, Will <Will.Lemke@seattle.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 11:36 AM

To: Lewis Kamb <lkamb@seattletimes.com>